GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1327
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION PROGRAMME
Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes / programmes being implemented under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(b) whether the Government has achieved the goal to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Dietary Intake (ADI) under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) of ICDS across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of beneficiaries under the supplementary nutrition Programme, State/UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the funds sanctioned, released and utilised under SNP during each of the last three years and the current year; State/UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken /being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the SNP across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a): Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers by providing a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services through Anganwadi Centres at grassroots level. Three of the six services viz. immunization, health check-up and referral services are related to health and are provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through NRHM and Public Health Infrastructure.

(b) &(c): Since the existing calorific norms were not adequately meeting the gap between Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and Average Dietary Intake (ADI), Government of India after due deliberations and taking into account the recommendations of experts, issued comprehensive revised nutritional and feeding norms on 24.2.2009. These guidelines specified the kind of supplementary nutrition to be provided to children in the age group of 0-6 months, 6 months to 3 years and 3-6 years as well as for pregnant women and lactating mothers. All the States/UTs have been advised to follow these guidelines so that the purpose for which these were issued is achieved.

A statement indicating State/UT-wise number of beneficiaries for supplementary nutrition under ICDS Scheme, including Andhra Pradesh, as on December 2013 is at Annex-I.

(d): A statement indicating State/UT-wise, including Andhra Pradesh, grants-in-aid released and expenditure reported including the State share for the year 2011-12 to 2013-14 and 2014-15 (upto 30.6.2014) is at Annex-II.

(e): Periodical assessment of progress/achievements made by the States/UTs and improvement in functioning of various components of the scheme, including Supplementary Nutrition Programme (No. of days SNP given in a month, method of delivery, adherence to the nutritional and feeding norms, regularity in distribution, etc.)., is an on-going and continuous process. This is done largely through monitoring reports and review meetings.

Besides the review meetings at the national and State level, implementation of the scheme is monitored through Monthly Progress Reports and Quarterly Progress Reports sent by the States /UTs to the Government of India. Being a highly decentralized programme, a Five-tier Monitoring mechanism with defined tasks has also been assigned to monitor the progress of implementation of the scheme at all the levels viz. national, State, district, block and the Anganwadi level. MIS has also been revised under the strengthening and restructuring of ICDS, recently approved by the Government. Shortcomings, if any, noticed in achieving the desired level of target in respect of above issues are brought to the notice of the States/UTs for necessary remedial actions.

Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS including revision of SNP norms is also a step in the direction for improving the delivery system of SNP. For proper implementation and optimum utilization of funds by the States/UTs under various components of the scheme, including SNP, the release of funds has been linked to their submission and approval of Annual Programme Implementation Plan under restructured ICDS Scheme.